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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK BOYS' AND GIRLS' BIOGRAPHY OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN ***

Boys' and Girls' Biography of Abraham Lincoln.

By James H. Shaw.

**Evergreen City Publishing Company,
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**TYPOGRAPHY AND PRESSWORK BY
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Boys' and Girls' Biography of Abraham Lincoln.

CHAPTER I.

A great English writer^[1] in a lecture on America and the Americans said that when an American gets to heaven he will not be satisfied unless he can move farther west.

He said this because it has been so much the custom of our people to "move West." It is not so common now as it was a few years ago because the great public lands, free to those who would settle on them or plant trees, are mostly occupied.

The Lincoln family a couple of hundred years ago first "moved west" from England to Massachusetts; then they moved west again to Pennsylvania; then west and south to Virginia; then west again to Kentucky.

Way back in the last century a man was digging in the rich soil of Kentucky. He turned up clods, planted seed and God sent the rain-drops and sun-beams and the grain sprang up and became gold. The surest gold mine in the world is our fertile soil and the surest miner is our farmer.

"Whoever plants a seed beneath the sod
And waits to see it push away the clod

He trusts in God."

A little boy watched his father work and learned the lesson that man lives best by the sweat of his own brow, not by the sweat of other men's brows. While they toiled, through the shadows of the surrounding forest a savage stole secretly toward them on his soft moccasins. He paused, aimed his gun and fired. The man fell over dead; then the Indian came rapidly, caught up the boy and ran off toward the woods with him. But his older brother, Mordecai, ran to the log hut and catching up the ever ready gun shot the Indian through the heart and sent him to the "happy hunting ground," and saved little Thomas Lincoln, who grew up to be a man and became the father of our beloved martyr president, Abraham Lincoln.

You have no doubt read of the adventures of Daniel Boone and the pioneers of Kentucky. A little boy thought these pioneers were so grand he said he wanted to be a "pioneer" when he went to heaven. But these pioneers had many hardships we do not have. They were constantly fighting the Indians and did not have the pleasant homes we have, but lived in rough log cabins, without plaster on the walls and with only the earth for floors. The snow drifted through the cracks of the logs and sometimes the children would wake up in the morning and find a little drift of snow on top of the bed quilt.

Though these Kentucky pioneers had hard times, they must have had a good place to live in after all, for some of the most honored men of our history, such as Andrew Jackson, Daniel Boone, David Crockett, Senator Benton, Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln came from this pioneer country.

The little boy, Thomas Lincoln, who was saved by his brother Mordecai, was born in Jefferson county, Kentucky in 1778. He grew to be a man in these wild surroundings. It was common to have a fight with the Indians and many and many a time he shot deer and bears. The people did not have much beef then but the meat was mostly wild turkeys, geese, prairie chickens, quail, venison and bears' meat. Every boy learned to shoot well and nearly always carried his gun with him even when he was working in the field, for an Indian might steal up on him or some wild game pass by. A large part of the clothing was made out of the skins of wild animals.

September 2d, 1806, Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Hanks were married; he was twenty-eight years old and she was twenty-three. A Methodist minister, Rev. Jesse Head, performed the ceremony.

The preachers were called circuit riders then because they preached at so many places and all the places were united into what was called a circuit.

This often included hundreds of miles and the preacher would only be at one of the points once in several months. He rode on horseback and carried his things in saddle bags hung across the horse's back.

Thomas and Nancy settled on Rock

Creek farm in Hardin county. Thomas built a new log cabin and fixed things up. In this log cabin on the 12th of February, 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born. He had a sister two years older and one young brother who died while a little baby. Thomas Lincoln was a slow-moving man and fond of jokes. He could not read until after he was married. This is not so very strange for you must remember that at that time, in Kentucky, there were very few schools. His wife taught him to read by spelling out the words in the Bible.

Nancy, Abraham's mother, was a very pretty woman. She was naturally refined and was considered well educated and had a cultivated and strong mind. Her son is supposed to have inherited his strong intellect from his mother and his fondness for stories and jokes from his father.

The mother taught her children to read and write and made them fond of books so that her son Abraham became a hard student and thus laid the foundation for his greatness. She was also a religious woman and trained the children to love God and keep his commandments.

Though Abraham grew up in very rough surroundings he did not learn to think that his words were made more emphatic or his expressions stronger by oaths. Abraham Lincoln never swore; he did not think it manly to take God's name in vain. One time when he was clerking, a rowdy swore in the store and in the presence of ladies. When they were gone Lincoln asked the man to step outside. He then threw him down and rubbed smart-weed in his eyes to punish him for his swearing, but as he was also kind-hearted he got some water afterwards and helped wash the smart out.

Kentucky has always been a great tobacco raising state and though little Abe grew up to be quite a good-sized boy in that state he did not think, as many boys foolishly do, that it is manly to use tobacco, for Abraham Lincoln never used tobacco in any form.

His mother taught him these good things and he learned to do what his mother taught him and many years after she was dead and he had become a great man he said, "All I am or hope to be I owe to my angel mother." These incidents seem all the more wonderful because there were but few Sunday-schools then to teach such lessons and churches were so few Abraham did not see one until he was twenty-one years old.

CHAPTER II.

The year Indiana was admitted into the Union, 1816, Thomas Lincoln moved his family to Spencer county in the southern part of that state. Little Abe was nearly eight years old at this time. It was a long, hard trip. They said good bye to their old home and friends and with their goods on a wagon drawn by oxen, slowly moved along. There were no such roads as we have; often there was only a path through the woods and at other times they had to cut down trees and tear away underbrush to get through. They also had to ford some uncertain streams because there were no bridges. They were ferried over the Ohio river.

They settled in southern Indiana, near the town of Gentryville and built a log cabin house which was called a half-faced camp because it was enclosed on all sides but one. There was no floor other than the ground and no door or window. Part of the land around it was cultivated, and on this they raised corn and vegetables; but the most of it was woods. Their neighbors were few and so far away even the smoke from their chimneys could not be seen. At this time there were no steamers going up the Ohio river to bring them news from Washington, to say nothing of news from Europe, and as for railroads, there were none at all in this western country, so that you can see it was very lonesome. They had no such opportunities as we have. Abraham learned to use the ax and wedge because with them most of the home was built. They did not even have saws. For their clothing, they cut the wool from the sheep's back, and mother would card, spin and weave it. They used needles from the pine trees and buttons were made by sewing a bit of cloth on a piece of bone. The one table they had in the one room, was made by cutting a rough slab of wood, boring holes in the corners and making rough legs. The chairs were made much the same way. They did not have any bedsteads; but made a frame by putting holes in the logs of the house and fastening side pieces to a pole driven down into the ground, then they covered it with skin, dry leaves and some rough cloth. Little Abraham slept in the loft. He had a corner there filled with dry leaves, to which he had to climb by means of pegs driven into the logs. Their food was of the plainest kind as far as bread went, corn dodger being the most common. Wheat bread, which they called cake, they sometimes had for Sunday. Once in a while they would have potatoes for a meal; but most of the time they had fish and game, such as deer, bear, wild turkeys, ducks, etc., for all of these were plentiful there. They did not have stoves as we have; but used a large fireplace built of brick or stone in the side of the log house. They had what was called a Dutch oven to do the baking. They did not have the many cooking vessels we have now and hence did not have the variety of food. They raised their own indigo with which they colored the cloth they made. They also used sumac berries and white walnut bark to color. They raised some cotton, which they would put near the fireplace, to keep warm and make it sweat, and then card it, spin it and finally color it. This would make what they called a pretty linsey dress or suit. They had to make their own soap by taking the fat of hogs and boiling it in a kettle with lye. Abraham's clothes were often made of deerskin, and he wore a coonskin for a cap.

One October day, a few of the friends of the Lincolns gathered around an open grave under a large cypress tree, and they buried the mother of Abraham Lincoln. They had lived but two years in that southern Indiana home. When all the others had gone away, and the shades of night were coming on, little Abraham threw himself on the new made grave and wept hours, for the greatest sadness and loss that could come to him was the death of his mother. Mother does more for us than any one else; when we are helpless she cares for us, and waits on us, and teaches us and does more for us than we can ever do for her. When a boy or girl loses his mother, he loses the one who will always do the most for him. It was not strange then that this little ten year old boy should feel so sad, when he knew he never could have the kind care of his own mother again. There were no preachers there who could perform the ceremony at the burial; but Abraham wrote to an old preacher friend down in Kentucky, one of those circuit riders I told you about, and many months later, he came and preached the funeral sermon. The man's name was David Elkin. At this time, all the friends from far and near came to hear the funeral sermon.

Some time after his wife's death, Thomas Lincoln went back to Kentucky, and there married a widow, Mrs. Sallie Johnson, who with her three children, came to the log cabin home near Gentryville, where had been left little Abraham and Sarah. Mrs. Johnson had a nice lot of household furniture, and when she came, she brought it with her. There was a bureau, table, set of chairs, clothes chest, knives and forks and bedding. All of these seemed wonderfully nice to Abraham and Sarah, for they did not have them before. Thomas Lincoln built a new log cabin house that had four sides and a kind of door and window in it. They also put a floor in the cabin made of slabs, and put plastering between the cracks in the logs. A feather bed was made for the children to sleep on. The step-mother was very good to them and took much interest in Abraham's studies. They did not have many books at that time; but Abraham was a great reader, and borrowed from all the neighbors. The books he was most familiar with, were the Bible, Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress, Weems' Life of Washington and the poems of Robert Burns. He did not have many books, and he read the ones he had over and over again, and became very familiar with them. Edward Eggleston, the author of the famous book "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," was one time confined by a storm in a house where the only books they had were the Bible and a dictionary. He said he learned more in those three days than in any other three days of his life. There has been no statesman who quoted the Bible so well as Mr. Lincoln, and the reason is, that he studied the Bible thoroughly when a small boy. Hardly any of his speeches but have many quotations from the Bible. His step-mother urged him all she could to study. In reading the life of Washington, he came to think he might make something out of himself. At this time, they were poor, and there were few opportunities, and the chances for becoming a great and prominent

man seemed very small; yet young Abraham thought if he would study hard, he might make something out of himself, and so he did. The school was very small, and as he had to work a great deal of the time on the farm, he could not attend it very much; but at night, he would often, after working hard all day, lie in front of the fireplace and figure on a piece of board. When he had used up all the space he scraped it off, and figured again. He would also read books by this same light. One night while reading the Life of Washington, lying in bed, he placed the book in the crack between the logs and went to sleep. In the night, it snowed, and some snow drifted between the logs on the book and injured it a great deal. It was borrowed from one of the neighbors. Abraham took it to the owner, and asked him what he could do to pay for it, and the man said he could work three days on the farm, and Abraham asked him if that would pay for the injury or pay for the book. The man said, "Well Abraham, you may have the book, I do not want it." Perhaps not many of us would be willing to work that hard to get the Life of Washington; but it was that very hard work and liking to study that made it possible for Mr. Lincoln to rise from such humble surroundings to be the great man he was. If he had not worked hard and studied in that way, he never could have become great. We cannot amount to much of anything if we are not willing, as boys and girls, to study and work.

He was always a good speller in school. They used to stand up in two rows and spell down. When you failed on the word, you sat down and the next one had a chance at it. A girl was trying to spell "definite," she was afraid she would miss it and she became nervous, and was about to spell it with a "y," when Abraham, who was standing across the room, put his finger up to his eye, giving her a sign, and then she knew it was "i" instead of "y." Abraham also made a habit of committing to memory pieces out of the books he was reading, and thus it became possible in after years for him to use fine quotations in his speeches. He was one of the best scholars in school. He was also noted for keeping his clothes clean longer than the others. Sometimes when Abraham was plowing in the field, at the end of a long row, the horse was allowed to rest, and he would then get his book from the corner of the fence and read a little, until it was time to start again. His father did not want him to do so much reading because he thought he was neglecting the necessary work; but his step-mother persuaded his father that Abraham was a good boy and ought to be allowed to read all he could, because it would make a better man of him. A Mr. Jones, who kept a store in Gentryville took about the only paper that was received there, and Abraham used to go into the store regularly to borrow it. He would often read aloud to the men who gathered there, and make comments. He was so bright in this that there would always be a great crowd around to listen to him. Abraham was a great story teller, and would give them many a hearty laugh with the stories he could tell. Special subjects were also much discussed. About this time, a few people began to claim that negro slavery was a bad thing, and there was general discussion over it. Slavery was universally common in the South. One question of debate was, which was the most to be complained of, the Indian or the Negro. Soon Mr. Lincoln's habit of making comments grew into speech making, and he sometimes gave sort of stump speeches to the crowd in which he would recite passages that he had committed from the speeches of some of the great orators. He used to get up on the stump of an old tree to deliver these speeches. This is why they were called stump speeches. His father did not like this because it took his attention away from the farm work. Once in a while, Abraham used to go to Booneville, the county seat to hear law suits. He also wrote an essay on temperance, and a preacher thought it was so good, he sent it to Ohio and it was published in a paper. He heard one of the celebrated Breckenridges make a very fine speech in a law suit. Although he was a rough country boy, when Mr. Breckenridge, after the speech, came by where he sat, Lincoln told him the speech was fine; but the great lawyer thought the young man too cheeky in speaking to him and snubbed him. In after years when Mr. Lincoln was president, Mr. Breckenridge called on him, and Mr. Lincoln reminded him of this incident. In the spring of 1828 when he was nineteen, Mr. Gentry, proprietor of the store at Gentryville, hired him to take a flat boat loaded with bacon and farm produce to New Orleans. A son of Mr. Gentry's was his companion. The boys had quite a time boating down the Ohio to the Mississippi and then down the Mississippi to New Orleans. One night when they had tied up the boat and were asleep, some negroes attacked them and tried to steal their goods, but they successfully drove the negroes away. At this time, there were a few steamers going up and down the Mississippi and the boys came home by one of them. It was a wonderful trip for these boys, Abraham was at this time, a remarkably strong young man. He grew to be six feet four inches tall, and could lift far more than any ordinary man, and could strike a heavier blow with a maul and sink an ax deeper into the wood than almost any other man. He got eight dollars a month and his board as pay for his hard trip to New Orleans. He became a very good penman in school, and was known in that neighborhood for his good writing. One of the copies in his copy-book that was a favorite was:

"Good boys who to their books apply, will all be great men bye and bye."

His step-mother who was fond of him, said "Abraham was a good boy, and I can say what scarcely a mother can say: Abraham never gave me a cross word or look, and never refused in fact or appearance anything I requested. I never gave him a cross word in all my life. His mind and mine seemed to run together. Abraham was the best boy I ever saw or expect to see."

They used to teach politeness in school those days. One of the scholars would go outside and knock at the door and another would admit him and ask him to be seated, and the boy was to take off his hat and bow and be as careful and polite as he could. Although Abraham was very tall and awkward, he was said to be very gentlemanly in his manners, and the lady for whom he worked, said he always lifted his hat when he bowed to her. That was not common then. His sister Sarah, who was two years older than himself, was married to Aaron Grigsby in 1828 and

only lived a year and a half after her marriage.

After fourteen years of hard labor on the Spencer county soil, Thomas Lincoln had learned what has proved ever since true, that it was very poor farm land. In addition, the milk sickness was a sort of an epidemic disease in those parts. It came about every year. It was from this that Abe's mother died. These things, together with some word that he had received, that Illinois had rich farm land, made him decide to move to that state. A cousin had already moved there and gave splendid reports of it. The company which moved to Illinois included Thomas Lincoln, his wife and her three children, Abraham and some of the other relatives, thirteen in all. They sold their land, cattle and grain in March, 1830 and started on their trip. Their goods were packed in a big wagon, the first one Thomas Lincoln ever owned. It was drawn by four oxen. The people around Gentryville were very sorry to see them go, for the neighbors in those days were almost like relatives, and those of them that still live there, remember the leaving of the Lincoln's as quite an event. The Lincoln family spent the last night with Mr. Gentry, the man for whom Gentryville was named, and he went part of the way with them along the road. One of the boys, James Gentry, planted a cedar tree in memory of Abraham Lincoln on the ground where the Lincoln home had stood. It must have been sad to Abraham to know he was leaving behind him the graves of his mother and sister and the scene of so many struggles to be a better man. As they drove through the country, Abraham, who had some thirty dollars he had saved, purchased some things and sold them as they came to settlements, and in this practical way earned something along the trip.

The things he sold were needles, pins, thread, buttons, knives and forks, etc. Abraham wrote back to one of his friends that he doubled his money on the way. This was Abraham's first effort as a merchant. They were about two weeks on their trip. When they passed through Vincennes, Indiana, they saw for the first time, a printing press. They landed in Macon county, where John Hanks, their relative had already cut logs for a new cabin. Many years afterward, when Decatur, the county seat, had become a large city and Mr. Lincoln a great man, he walked out a few feet in front of the court house with a friend, stood looking up at the building and said, "Here is the exact spot where I stood by our wagon when we moved from Indiana twenty-six years ago. This is not six feet from the exact spot." The friend asked him if at that time he expected to be a lawyer and practice law in that court house. He replied, "No, I did not know I had sense enough to be a lawyer then."

They fenced in with a rail fence, ten acres of ground, and raised a crop of corn upon it. Mr. Lincoln and Dennis Hanks split the rails for the fence, and many years afterwards, men carried some of them into a state convention at Decatur, where Mr. Lincoln was nominated as the Illinois candidate for president, with a banner, saying they were split by him, and he was the "rail candidate."

CHAPTER III.

Thomas Lincoln was now well fixed to begin life over again, and as Abraham was twenty-one, he wished to do for himself and started out. He never afterwards was a member of his father's household. Thomas Lincoln lived here a number of years; but afterwards moved to Coles county, where he lived on a farm near the village of Farmington, that Abraham bought for him. He died January 17th, 1851. Abraham at the time could not be present on account of sickness in his own family, so he wrote as follows: "I sincerely hope that father may recover his health. Tell him to remember to call upon the great God and all-wise Maker, who will not turn away from him in any extremity. He notes the fall of the sparrow, He numbers the hairs of our heads, and will not forget the dying man who puts his trust in Him. Say to him that if we could meet now it is doubtful whether it would not be more painful than pleasant; but that if it be His will for him to go now, he will soon have the joyous meeting of the loved ones gone before, where the rest of us with the help of God will hope ere long to join them." Talking to a friend after the death of his father about his mother, he said "that whatever might be said of his parents, however unpromising the surroundings of his mother may have been, she was highly intellectual by nature and had a strong memory and acute judgment." She had no doubt risen above her surroundings, and had she lived, the stimulus of her nature would have accelerated the son's success.

When Abraham started out for himself, he had almost nothing, not even a nice suit of clothes, and the very first work he did was to split four hundred rails for enough money to buy him a pair of brown jeans pants. He had no trade or influence; but he was strong and good natured. He could out-lift and out-wrestle and out-work any man he came across. His friends used to boast of his strength a great deal. One time when he was president, a man came to him, who was shy on account of being before the president. After his errand was done, Mr. Lincoln asked him to measure with him, and the man proved to be even taller, and went away seeming to think there was something wrong in his being taller than the president of the United States. While his strength made him popular with the hard working men, his good nature, wit, stories, and ability to make a good speech made him popular with everybody! The people liked to have him around, so he could always get work in the various kinds of labor necessary on the farm about there. He remained in Macon county a year, and made for one man alone, three thousand rails. He continued at this time to read all the books he could get, and also to make stump speeches, often doing it alone in the woods. A man came along making political speeches. John Banks told Abraham that he could do better. Abraham tried it, and the man after hearing his speech took

him aside and asked him how he learned so much and how he could do so well. Abraham told him that he read a great deal and the man encouraged him to continue.

A Mr. Benton Offut wanted to send some produce to New Orleans. Abraham had had some experience on a trip you will remember before, and so Mr. Offut hired him at the rate of fifty cents a day to take a flat boat of goods to New Orleans and sell them. When they were building this boat at Sangamon, a town that is now gone, Lincoln used to tell stories particularly in the evening when work was done. They would sit along a log, and when they came to a funny part, they would laugh so hard that the men would roll off the log. It is said they did this so often that it polished the log. They called this "Abraham's log," and many years afterward, even when Mr. Lincoln was noted, this log was pointed out to strangers as "Abraham's log."

When they started to New Orleans their boat got stuck on a dam in the Sangamon River at New Salem, but Mr. Lincoln thought out a good plan for getting it off and they finally reached New Orleans in May 1831. They remained there a month. It was a large city and was very interesting to Abraham. It was the great business center of the South, and as negro slavery was a very prominent feature of the South, they saw it in all its wickedness. At New Orleans one day, John Hanks and Abraham were walking along the street and came to a slave market. They saw a beautiful slave girl put up for sale. They pinched her and trotted her up and down the street just as you would a horse to show its fine parts. This disgusted Abraham so much that he turned to Hanks and said, "John, if I ever get a chance to hit that thing (slavery) I will hit it hard." Strange was it not that he should be the man that would hit it so hard that it died.

When he returned from New Orleans, Mr. Offut hired him to take charge of a little store at New Salem, which he started. This town was a very little village twenty miles north-west of Springfield. The place where it was located is now simply a pasture for cattle and sheep, the town having entirely passed away; but it will always be noted in history as the place where Abraham Lincoln, the great man lived and conducted a store. Thus you see that men are so much more important than places, and it is *their deeds* that make history. In after years when Mr. Douglas was debating with Mr. Lincoln he joked him about this store keeping, and said that he sold liquor over the New Salem bar. When it came Mr. Lincoln's turn to reply, he was just as witty in his reply and said that if he did sell liquor over the New Salem bar as his friend had said, he could assure his audience that the best patron he had was Stephen A. Douglas. This was simply a joke between these two debaters; but it illustrates how quick Mr. Lincoln's wit was.

We all no doubt think ourselves honest; but I wonder if we are as strictly honest as Mr. Lincoln was. After measuring out some tea for a lady one evening in the store, he gave it to her. After attending to other work in the store, he happened to pass by the scales and noticed he had made a mistake and given her too little. He measured out the difference, wrapped it up, and although the woman lived a long distance away, he hastened off to bring her the difference. Perhaps the most of us might have thought that we would wait until she came in again and give it to her and perhaps then forget all about it; but that was not Mr. Lincoln's way. One evening after discovering that he had taken six and a fourth cents too much from a customer, he walked three miles and returned the money at once. He also was postmaster, but the postoffice was so small and did such a little business that the government closed it up. They neglected, however, to get the balance due them of about sixteen dollars. Many years afterwards when Mr. Lincoln was living in Springfield, the agent for the government came to his office for the money. In the meantime Mr. Lincoln had been through some very great poverty, and often needed just a little money very much. I presume many people would have borrowed that sixteen dollars for the time and returned it when the agent came for it. A friend of Mr. Lincoln's called him to one side when the agent came for the money, and said he knew he was poor, and probably did not have that amount with him, and he would loan it to him; but Mr. Lincoln said he did not need it, and asking the agent to wait awhile, he went over to his room and got an old sock out of his trunk and bringing this back to the office, untied it and dumped on the table the exact money he had received as the postmaster many years before. Here is a good lesson for us in strict and exact honesty. This instance illustrates Mr. Lincoln's very strict honesty, and as he became known about New Salem, and this characteristic was seen by the people, he was nicknamed "Honest Abe," and this name for honesty went with him ever afterward, and when he would speak to the jury in a law suit, and tell them the facts, they would always believe him because he was known as "Honest Abe," and would not tell a lie. So you see that it was a very great advantage to him in after years to have been so strictly honest. It proves the old saying true, that "Honesty is the best policy."

Mr. Offut, Abraham's employer was very proud of his strength and was wont to boast of it very often. There was a settlement near New Salem called Clary's Grove. A large number of young men who lived in that vicinity ran together and were known as the Clary's Grove boys. They were large and strong young men, and very much given to fun and sport. They were rude and rough and would wrestle, fight and do a great many tricks. Abraham, being a stranger bragged on by his employer they thought it was necessary to "take the starch out of him," so they put up their best man, Jack Armstrong to wrestle against Abraham. Jack Armstrong was a square built fellow and strong as an ox. Abraham did not like this sort of thing, but it was hard to avoid it. So they met on a certain day for the wrestling match. The crowd came to witness the contest. For a long time they struggled without either gaining a victory, and both keeping on their feet. Finally Armstrong made a foul and this made Abraham furious, so he caught Jack by the throat, held him out at arm's length and shook him as though he was only a child. Armstrong's friends rushed to his aid, but Abraham backed up to the building and stood ready. His friends came to his support,

and when all knew about Armstrong's trick and also recognized Abraham's wonderful strength, they became admirers of him, and ever after the Clary's Grove boys were staunch friends of Mr. Lincoln.

He used the influence thus acquired to teach them that the mind is the measure of the man, and not physical strength and by his example taught them that to cultivate the mind by reading and study was the more important thing and he did them a great deal of good.

CHAPTER IV.

While Abraham clerked in Mr. Offut's store he studied hard. Some one told him he ought to study grammar. In all the neighborhood there was but one grammar. He heard where it was, and started off at once, and got Kirkham's grammar. He applied himself to learning it, and would recite to his friend, Green, and then would consult the school teacher, Mr. Graham about points. In a few weeks he had learned it, and then took up other studies. The men thereabouts, seeing him study so much, got the idea that he was going to be a great man.

One morning in April, 1832, a messenger from the governor came into New Salem, scattering circulars asking for volunteers for the Black Hawk war. Black Hawk was one of the Indian chiefs who had caused the government a great deal of trouble.

He made an attack on the settlers. The governor called for help, and volunteers. Mr. Lincoln with a number of the Clary's Grove boys and others about New Salem volunteered and went down to Beardstown on the 22nd of April, 1832 to form a regiment. They did not have regular uniform, but each was dressed in whatever clothing he had. Many of them wore buckskin breeches and coonskin caps. Each man had his own blanket, and carried flint lock rifles, with a powder horn slung over his shoulder. Mr. Kirkpatrick wanted to be captain, and Lincoln thought he would like to be. This same Mr. Kirkpatrick had owed Abraham some money for a long time and would not pay it; so Lincoln said to a friend, he would run for the place, and may be Kirkpatrick would pay him. Each one stood out, and the men were told to stand beside the man they preferred for captain, and about two-thirds of them stood beside Lincoln, and thus he was made captain. He said afterwards when he was president, that he was never so proud of any election as that. They were not very well trained soldiers, and Mr. Lincoln did not know the commands very well. One day he wanted to get his company through a gateway, and he said, "I could not for the life of me remember the word of command for getting my company endwise so that it would get through the gate. So as we came near the gate, I shouted, this company will disband for two minutes, then it will fall in again on the other side of the gate."

A helpless Indian came to the camp one day and seven men wanted to kill him, but Captain Lincoln stood in front of the seven men and told them they should not hurt the helpless savage. The warfare was not very successful and the company mustered out in May; but in the latter end of the same month, Lincoln joined another company. A strange incident then occurred, the meeting of four men, who afterwards became very celebrated. It was on the Rock River near Dixon. There were together, Colonel Zachary Taylor, afterwards commander in general and president of the United States; Abraham Lincoln, afterwards president of the United States; Lieut. Anderson, afterwards commander of Ft. Sumter when it was fired upon and Lieut. Davis, afterwards president of the Southern Confederacy. On July 10th, Lincoln's company mustered out. It was three weeks before the last battle of the war which finally killed most of the Indians and scattered the rest.

He returned to New Salem, ran for a member of the legislature. There were eight candidates. He issued a circular in favor of widening the Sangamon River and made a canvass of the district, going largely to public sales and shaking hands with the people, and making speeches. At one place he helped settle a fight and then got upon the platform and went on with his speech. Lincoln was beaten in the election, although he was third man in the number of votes of the eight candidates. This was the only time that Abraham was ever defeated in a direct vote of the people.

After the election, he bought an interest with a man named Berry in a store. At the same time Lincoln began to study law. The law books were not very numerous. One day a man going past drove up to the store, and wanted him to buy a barrel of rubbish for which he had no room in his wagon. Lincoln paid half a dollar for it. Sometime afterwards in looking over the stuff, he found a complete edition of Blackstone's law commentary. "The more I read," said he, "the more interested I became. Never in my life was my mind so thoroughly possessed. I read until I devoured it." These books are quite a large set of books and it must have required a good deal of work to have learned them.

Lincoln was postmaster. The rates of postage then, were much higher than they are now. For instance, a single sheet letter carried thirty miles or under eighty was ten cents, four hundred miles, eighteen and one-half cents, and over that twenty-five cents. As Mr. Lincoln studied so hard, and his partner Berry did not attend to the business very well, the store was not prosperous. They gave it up and sold out. Lincoln then studied surveying, and became a surveyor. He also began to practice a little law, and when anybody had a law suit about New Salem, he was frequently employed. It is said that when he first took up surveying, he was too poor to buy him a chain, and had to use a grape vine. Between the surveying and a little law practice, Lincoln made

his living; but it was not until fifteen years afterwards that he was able to settle all the debts made by the store of Berry & Lincoln.

The summer of 1834 he again ran for the legislature and was elected. The capital at this time was located at Vandalia instead of Springfield. They only had rough tables and benches for the legislators, and they did not receive as much pay as they do now. They wore the same kind of suits, buckskin trousers and coonskin caps as the soldiers of the Black Hawk war. At the time Mr. Lincoln was a member of the legislature it was very unpopular to be an abolitionist. The legislature passed a resolution condemning the abolitionists because they stirred up the people by agitating the freedom of slaves. Mr. Lincoln and one other man signed a protest against the resolution, and were the only members of the Illinois legislature at this time who were willing to stand up for the freedom of the slaves.

Mr. Lincoln continued to study law quite hard while he was a member of the legislature. He had four terms, and met some men there as fellow-members who afterwards became very prominent men.

It was about one hundred miles from New Salem to Vandalia, the capital of the state, where the legislature met. There were few railroads at that time and in addition Abraham Lincoln was very poor, so he walked to and from Vandalia. He was quite a big man and of course had big feet. They tell a funny story of one time he and a companion were walking home from Vandalia. It was cold weather and Mr. Lincoln complained of being very cold. His companion said: "Well, Abe, I don't see how you can help it when there is so much of you on the ground."

Mr. Lincoln was eight years a member of the state legislature and was one of the most active members in securing the change of the capital from Vandalia to Springfield, where it now is. Stephen A. Douglas was also a member of the legislature. There is another funny story I might tell you of Mr. Lincoln's peculiarity of appearance. Mr. Lovejoy, who was a congressman from Princeton, Illinois, and a great abolitionist was talking with Mr. Douglas one day in Washington when Mr. Lincoln was passing by. They called over Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Lovejoy said: "Abe, I have been telling Judge Douglas that his legs are too short (Mr. Douglas was a very short, heavy-set man), and yours are too long; what do you think about it?" Mr. Lincoln replied, "Well, I never gave the matter much thought but I have always been of the opinion that a man's legs ought to be long enough to reach from his body to the ground." In March, 1837, he was licensed to practice law, and concluded to move from New Salem to Springfield. A pathetic incident is related of his moving. He had very little goods, so borrowed a horse and put most of them into a pair of saddle-bags, rode up to Springfield and went into the store of his friend Speed and asked him how much it would cost to buy a bedroom set of furniture. Mr. Speed figured it up. About the cheapest would be seventeen dollars. A sad look came over Abraham's face, and he said, "Well Speed, I suppose that is cheap enough, but cheap as it is, I have not the money to pay for it." "Well," said Speed, "I tell you, Abraham, I have a big double bed up stairs, and if you want to occupy half of it with me, you are welcome." Mr. Lincoln grabbed his saddle-bags and went up stairs. In another minute he was down, with a smile on his face. "Well Speed, I moved," and he never moved again but once, and that was when he moved as president of the United States from Springfield to Washington. A strange comparison.

I must tell you a little story that happened to Mr. Lincoln at New Salem, before he moved to Springfield. One of the prominent families there was that of James Rutledge. They had a very pretty and sweet daughter named Anne. She was gentle, kind and good, and everyone loved her. She was also bright intellectually as a student, and a good many young men about there tried to court her. Although Mr. Lincoln was a very homely man, he had studied and developed his mind so much, and had so much information that he really was handsome.

It proves that what we know, not how we look is the important thing, and so he was the one favored by Anne Rutledge. They became quite in love with each other and were engaged.

While Mr. Lincoln was away, Anne was taken sick and continued to get worse. When he returned he found her past recovery. She died August 25th, 1835. Mr. Lincoln was wonderfully overcome with grief, and said to a friend who tried to cheer him, and urge him to control his sorrow, "I cannot. The thought of snow and rain on her grave fills me with indescribable grief," and it was a long time before he could shake off the melancholy and sadness of her death so as to apply himself to his regular duties. He was wont to go off to her grave, and said, "My heart is buried there." In years after, he said, "I really and truly loved the girl, and think often of her now, and I have always loved the name of Rutledge to this day."

CHAPTER V.

After settling in Springfield, Mr. Lincoln formed a law partnership with Mr. John T. Stewart, who was known as one of the leading lawyers in Springfield. They were quite successful. At that time it was customary for the lawyers to go around with the judge from one county-seat to another where court was held in the district. Judge David Davis was Circuit Judge at this time, and there were a number of men in the group that went around Central Illinois together, who afterward became famous men. Mr. Lincoln was one of the most popular in the crowd, for he was a splendid story-teller, and would keep the crowd amused for hours with funny stories after court was over

for the day. One time the son of Jack Armstrong, whom Abraham had thrown in the wrestling match at New Salem, was accused of committing a murder. His mother was poor and Jack Armstrong was dead. She came to Mr. Lincoln and told him she had no money, but wished very much he could help her and defend her son. He did so. A man at the trial swore he saw by the moonlight this young Armstrong strike the man who was killed. Mr. Lincoln got the almanac and proved by it that there was no moon shining at that time. Then when he told the jury with tears in his eyes how the poor old mother was down in the pasture waiting with a sad heart for the verdict and that he believed the young man was innocent, they all believed him, for they knew him as "Honest Abe Lincoln," so they cleared young Armstrong and sent him to support his poor old mother. Mr. Lincoln used to win very many cases, for the juries all believed him. You remember he was so honest in the little New Salem store that he got the name of "Honest Abe Lincoln." Thus it was proved in his case very clearly that "honesty is the best policy." He never made much money, although he was so successful, because he was low in his charges and he was never a rich man. He tried many cases for poor people without charging them anything. One day as the lawyers were riding their horses along the road, some one said: "Where is Abe?" and another lawyer spoke up and said: "I left him back there hunting the nest for some birds that had lost it." You see by this how kind-hearted he was even towards birds and animals.

They used to have debating societies in Springfield and Abraham was fond of taking part. The practice he got in this way helped make him a fine speaker. The Washingtonian society was a strong temperance organization at that time. At one of its meetings, February 22, 1842, Mr. Lincoln spoke and said what has often been quoted since: "When the victory shall be complete, when there shall be neither a slave nor a drunkard on the earth, how proud the title of that land which may claim to be the birth-place and cradle of those resolutions that shall have ended in victory."

You see by this, that as far back as 1842 Mr. Lincoln was a strong temperance man as well as opposer of slavery. When the committee came to notify him of his nomination for president, instead of treating them to wine, as was the custom, Mr. Lincoln gave them water and remarked that he would continue his habit of using and giving his guests "Adam's Ale," or pure water. Mr. Lincoln ran for congress against the famous Illinois pioneer preacher, Peter Cartwright. Mr. Cartwright was a very noted and popular man and it is therefore all the more to the credit of Mr. Lincoln that he was elected. He was only two years in congress and was not able in that length of time to make much of a record, as new men do not get heard very easily.

A beautiful young lady, Miss Mary Todd, came from Kentucky to live with her sister, Mrs. Edwards, in Springfield. The Edwards family was very prominent for the father had been governor of Illinois. Miss Todd was one of the popular belles in Springfield and was courted by many of the leading young men. Mr. Lincoln was the successful suitor, however, and they were married November 4, 1842. They had three boys. Only one of them is living now; the Honorable Robert Lincoln, a lawyer in Chicago and former American minister to Great Britain. The other boys died while little fellows.

Two young men who became very famous in the history of our country really started their careers at Springfield, Illinois. One was Stephen A. Douglas and the other Abraham Lincoln. It would be hard to say which of these young men was the smarter; they were both brilliant and hard workers. That is, they studied hard and that made them successful. Although they were both great men, they were not much alike in appearance or in disposition or in the quality of their minds.

Mr. Lincoln came from the South where they liked slavery and Mr. Douglas from Vermont where they hated slavery. They both came to Illinois at about the age of twenty-one, when they became citizens according to the law.

At this time Illinois was a sort of debating battle-ground. Emigrants came to it from the north and east, who were opposed to slavery; others came from the south, who were in favor of slavery, and these two classes, in the absence of slavery and on rather mutual ground, debated the rights and wrongs of slavery with constant and energetic debate.

The Democratic party at this time was mostly in the South and the Whig party mostly in the North. Slavery was in the South, but not in the North. Naturally, therefore, the Democratic party favored slavery, and the Whig party, while it did not oppose slavery, yet did not favor it. You would think, under the circumstances, that Mr. Lincoln coming from the South, would have been a Democrat, and Mr. Douglas coming from the North would have been a Whig. But they each did the opposite. The Democratic party was in the majority in Illinois at this time and I presume Mr. Douglas, coming to the state, ambitious to succeed, thought he could best succeed if he went in with the popular party, for it had control of the offices and could give him a place and then advance him higher and higher as he proved his worth. After events proved that he was thus advanced and to very great honors.

When Mr. Lincoln was making a speech at Charleston, Illinois, one time, a man in the audience tried to ridicule him, and shouted out: "Say, Lincoln, when you came to Illinois, didn't you come barefoot and driving a yoke of oxen?"

Showing how coming poor from a slave state, he was helped to be what he was, by the free state of Illinois. Mr. Lincoln wound up the reply with these magnificent words:

"Yes, and we will speak for freedom and against slavery as long as the constitution of our country

guarantees free speech, until everywhere on this wide land, the sun shall shine and the rain fall and the wind blow upon no man who goes forth to unrequited toil."

Thus you see Mr. Lincoln was opposed to slavery, and though he was as ambitious as Mr. Douglas and would have been glad to be on the successful and winning side so he could be advanced, he was nevertheless so strictly honest that he would not join the popular party because it endorsed slavery, and he was so determined to be strictly honest in his politics as well as everything else that he was willing to apparently throw away his chances of success and join the unpopular party because it did not endorse slavery, which he thought a wicked institution.

So these two young men started out. One went into the popular and successful party and succeeded with it. The other went into the unpopular and unsuccessful party and failed with it, yet did not fail, because he kept his principles. Mr. Douglas went on higher and higher in honors and fame and was United States senator a number of years. In the senate he ranked as one of the greatest statesmen of the day.

Mr. Lincoln was only a well-to-do lawyer, unknown out of Central Illinois. Twenty years after their start he thus wrote of it:

"Twenty years ago Douglas and I first became acquainted. We were both young then. Even then we were both ambitious. I, perhaps quite as much as he. With me the race of ambition has been a failure—a flat failure. With him it has been one of splendid success. His name fills the nation and is not unknown even in foreign lands. I affect no contempt for the high eminence he has reached. So reached, that the oppressed of my species might have shared with me in the elevation, I would rather stand on that eminence than wear the richest crown that ever pressed a monarch's brow."

By this you see he appreciated Mr. Douglas' honors, but would not accept them himself if to do so, he had to endorse slavery.

In 1858 Mr. Douglas was generally recognized as the ablest man in the Democratic party, and it was thought that two years later, he would be the Democratic nominee for president, and as the Democrats were in the majority he would certainly be the next president of the United States. Mr. Lincoln was not known much outside of Central Illinois, where he practiced law.

One of the political doctrines of Mr. Douglas was called "Squatter Sovereignty." It meant that in the new territories and states being added to the Union, that if they wanted slavery there, the people could vote to have it or they could vote not to have it. Mr. Lincoln was opposed to this, and wanted no more slave states added to the Union. He challenged Mr. Douglas, as the representative of Illinois in the United States senate to a joint debate. Mr. Douglas finally agreed, and they held seven wonderful debates in different parts of the state. Great crowds came from far and near to hear them. They were drawn by the fame of Mr. Douglas, who rode on special trains and had bands of music, and cannons fired off when he entered the town. Mr. Lincoln often rode in the caboose of a freight train or was hauled over-land in the wagon of some farmer friend. The people, when they had heard these debates, went home and talked them over, and it was seen that two wonderful men had met in the political battlefield. Mr. Douglas seemed just as able as Mr. Lincoln, and they said so; but they saw Mr. Lincoln was right, and standing by a principle, while Douglas was wrong, and compromising with a principle. Mr. Douglas did receive the Democratic nomination for president although his party split.

These debates and Mr. Lincoln's right stand made him suddenly famous. His fame spread rapidly over the whole country east and west. He was asked to go and speak in New York city in Cooper Institute, and delivered a wonderful address there and at other places in the East. He came to Bloomington, Illinois and delivered a speech in which he said: "As long as Almighty God reigns and the school children read, this foul, black lie of African slavery shall not continue; it shall not remain half slave and half free." Mr. Seward, of New York, a great statesman, who was the author of the famous "irrepressible conflict" expression was thought to be the man who would be nominated for president by the Republican party which had taken the place of the Whig party and was standing stronger against slavery. There were several others, like Mr. Chase, of Ohio, and Mr. Stanton, who it was thought might also receive the nomination. Some were advocating Mr. Lincoln for vice president; but he said he would not have that. The Illinois state convention met at Decatur, and in the midst of it, some men came in carrying a banner supported by two fence rails on which was this: "Abraham Lincoln, the rail candidate for president in 1860. Two rails from a lot of three thousand made in 1830 by Thomas Hanks and Abraham Lincoln, whose father was the first pioneer of Macon county." This created a wonderful excitement, and the vote of Illinois became in favor of Lincoln as the nominee for president.

A large, rough building was erected in Chicago, called the Wigwam, in which the Republican convention was held. Large delegations with bands of music came on special trains from all over the country. The excitement was great. Illinois sent thousands to shout for Mr. Lincoln. The hotels were packed with noisy people. Banners and mottos in profusion floated from the business houses and public buildings. But a small part of the crowd could get into the Wigwam, although it held several thousand. Mr. Seward, of New York, the author of "the irrepressible conflict" was the most popular and most noted of the candidates and it was thought he would receive the nomination. The Illinois men and Mr. Lincoln's friends started to work for Mr. Lincoln's nomination. They worked day and night, scarcely eating or sleeping. The first ballot showed Mr. Seward to be considerably ahead but not enough to win. Then breaking began on the following ballots from the smaller candidates to Mr. Lincoln, and he received a majority of the votes and was nominated as the Republican candidate for president May 16, 1860. A man was on top of the

Wigwam; as soon as the result of the last ballot was announced he shouted to a man on the edge of the building, "Fire the salute, Lincoln is nominated." He passed it on to others. Soon the bells began to ring, cannon were fired and the people on the streets were wild with enthusiasm.

Mr. Douglas received the Democratic nomination, but that party split and Mr. Breckenridge was nominated by a few. There was now the direct conflict between the extension and non-extension of slavery. Mr. Lincoln became very much worked up on the slavery question, and talking to Dr. Bateman, whose room, as State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was next his in the capital at Springfield, he said:

"I know there is a God, and he hates injustice and slavery. I see the storm coming. I know that His hand is in it. If He has a place for me and work for me and I think He has—I believe I am ready. I am nothing, but truth is everything. I know I am right because I know that liberty is right, for Christ teaches it and Christ is God. I have told them that a house divided against itself cannot stand, and Christ and reason say the same and they will find it so. Douglas don't care whether slavery is voted up or down, but God cares and humanity cares and I care; and with God's help I shall not fail. I may not see the end, but it will come and I shall be vindicated and these men will find that they have not read their Bible right."

The election came off in November, and Mr. Lincoln found the people had read their Bibles' right on slavery and elected him by a tremendous majority.

March 4, 1861, Mr. Lincoln stood at the Capitol building to deliver his inaugural address as president of the United States. He did not see a place to put his hat and Mr. Douglas reached forward, took it and held it while Mr. Lincoln spoke.

Now you see the outcome of these two men. One compromised with this great principle, and, after thus holding the hat of his successful rival, who would not compromise with the principle, went out and died a few months afterward with a broken heart for his lost ambition. Before he died, however, Mr. Douglas became an outspoken defender of the Union and opposed to the war of the rebellion. On the other hand, Mr. Lincoln, true to this principle suffered defeat for many years, but in the end won the greatest honor and became the greatest president of our nation. It pays to be true to principle, no matter how unpopular it may be and though seeming defeat of our ambitions stare us in the face. "This above all things, to thine own self be true," was the wise advice of Polonius to his son in Shakespeare's play of Hamlet.

The preceding president had been favorable to the South and slavery and many of their men were in command of the military posts and other important parts. The navy was scattered to distant ports and large quantities of arms and ammunition were stored in the Southern forts. The election of Mr. Lincoln seemed to anger the Southern men beyond endurance and there were loud threats of secession. When he delivered his inaugural address he saw many scowling, angry faces in front of him. In great kindness he appealed to them and his last thought was very beautiful when he said:

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, are the momentous issues of civil war.

"You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government. While I have the most solemn one to preserve, protect and defend it.

"We are not enemies, but friends. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection.

"The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

It was all in vain and South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas in turn led off in secession. They met at Montgomery, Alabama and formed the "Confederate States of America," with Jefferson Davis, of Mississippi as president and Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia as vice-president. Arsenals, custom-houses, forts and ships of the United States were seized. Fort Sumter was fired upon by Gen. Beauregard April 14, 1861, and the great Civil war, the greatest in history, began.

This was the hardest place a president of the United States was ever in. There was but a small army, and as I said the navy was scattered. President Lincoln at once called for volunteer troops. The attack on Fort Sumter so aroused the North that men rapidly left their families and homes, that which one most loves, and rushed to enlist as volunteer soldiers. They had a song in which were these words:

"We are coming Father Abraham, Three hundred thousand strong."

Thus they called the great president "Father Abraham" and showed how much they loved him.

Gen. George B. McClellan was put in command of the army. The first battle of any note was that of Bull Run, near Washington. In this the Northern soldiers were driven back and beaten. It seemed very discouraging then for the cause of the Union.

More soldiers enlisted and the army was trained and drilled until Mr. Lincoln thought they ought to attack Gen. Lee, who commanded the Confederate army. He felt sure as they had more men

they could defeat him and capture Richmond, which was now the capital of the Confederate States. General McClellan seemed to be afraid to move forward and wanted more time to drill the men he had and make other preparations and also wanted more men. In the meantime, of course Gen. Lee was making stronger his army and preparing more defences around Richmond so that it was harder to defeat him.

The army in the West was not doing very well either. But at last Illinois furnished another son in the person of General Grant, who won great and decisive victories. Vicksburg, which was the great stronghold of the Southern army in the West surrendered to him July 4, 1863. President Lincoln had been trying in every way to get General McClellan to move on the enemy but could not, and at last the general was moved from command. General Meade had command of the Eastern army which fought the battle of Gettysburg and won that great victory on the same Fourth of July that General Grant captured Vicksburg.

The battle of Gettysburg is said to have been about the greatest in history; 23,000 soldiers were killed. Now there was great rejoicing in the North. In these early years of the war, President Lincoln was placed in a very hard position. The abolitionists abused him because he did not issue the emancipation proclamation, freeing the slaves; the Middle states, that had not seceded, threatened to do so if he did. Some of his own Cabinet were not true to him. The people cried out because General McClellan would not move forward, and Mr. Lincoln tried in vain to get him to do so. Therefore these great victories of Vicksburg and Gettysburg came to him as a wonderful blessing and relief from the awful strain he had been enduring. General Grant had won some other grand victories preceding the capture of Vicksburg, and the Union, as the old ship of state, seemed to be sailing into more peaceful waters.

"Sail on, O ship of state,
Sail on, O Union, strong and great;
Humanity with all its fears,
With all its hopes of future years,
Is hanging breathless on thy fate.
In spite of rock and tempest roar,
In spite of false lights on the shore;
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea,
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers are all with thee."

General Grant was given command of the Eastern army, and pushing the enemy hard, victory after victory came to the North. Gen. Sherman marched his army right through the middle of the enemy, dividing it into two parts. He captured Atlanta and then went on to the sea. The song, "Marching through Georgia," was written over this wonderful march. There were more victories in the South and West. General Grant was made commander-in-chief of the armies, and it soon became clear that the cause of secession was lost.

Mr. Lincoln had written an emancipation proclamation and was working it over, thinking and consulting about it. He did not know just when was the best time to issue so momentous a document, that would set free four million of colored men in the degradation and bondage of human slavery. Mr. Seward was Secretary of State and a very wise man; he gave him some good advice about it. Mr. Carpenter quotes Mr. Lincoln's words as follows:

"I put the draft of the proclamation aside, waiting for a victory. Well, the next news we had was of Pope's disaster at Bull Run. Things looked darker than ever. Finally came the week of the battle of Antietam. I determined to wait no longer. The news came, I think on Wednesday, that the advantage was on our side. I was then staying at the Soldiers' Home. Here I finished writing the second draft of the proclamation; came up on Saturday; called the Cabinet together to hear it, and it was published the following Monday. I made a solemn vow before God, that if General Lee was driven back from Maryland I would crown the result by the declaration of freedom to the slaves."

The Emancipation Proclamation is certainly the greatest thing in the nineteenth century.

The Confederate army continued to grow weaker. They were short of food and rest. General Grant's army gave them no rest but pushed after them day and night. They made one more gallant and brave attack on the Union forces, but in vain, and April 9, 1865, Gen. Lee surrendered unconditionally to Gen. Grant at Appomatox Court House, Va. At the instance of President Lincoln, Gen. Lee's soldiers were allowed to ride home their horses, and, no longer rebel soldiers, but American citizens, begin to plow the ground with their horses, to till the soil and make a living for themselves and families. To-day there are none that rejoice more than the men of the South that African slavery is forever abolished.

In 1864 Mr. Lincoln was again elected president by a very large majority over Gen. McClellan, the Democratic nominee. At his second inaugural he uttered some very fine things. Some of them are as follows:

"Neither party expected for the war the magnitude or the duration it has already obtained. Both read the same Bible and pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other. It may seem strange that any men should dare to ask a just God's assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men's faces. But let us judge not that we be not judged. The prayers of both could not be answered. * * * The Almighty had his own purposes. 'Woe unto the world because of offenses, for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the

offense cometh.' If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of these offenses, which in the providence of God must needs come * * * and he gives to both North and South this terrible war as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern there any departure from those divine attributes, which the believers in a living God always ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn by the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said that 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

Saturday, April 8, 1865, was a glad day throughout the North. Men met each other early on that day and shook hands with smiling faces. Many shouted and threw their hats in the air. Great bonfires were kindled and bands came out and played happy airs. Flags floated everywhere. That morning word came on the telegraph wires that Richmond had been captured. Lee had surrendered and the war was over.

Just one week later men met each other on the street with tears in their eyes; signs of mourning were seen everywhere, and the bands played sad tunes. Word came on the telegraph wire that morning that the beloved president was dead; killed by an assassin's bullet.

Mr. Lincoln and his wife were out riding around Washington, and he said, "Mary, we have had a stormy life in Washington, and after this term of office is over, we will go back to Springfield and live a quiet life." But God had willed otherwise. That evening while he was resting from his hard labors and duties as president by attending Ford's theater, John Wilkes Booth, a wild fanatic, who had been a southern rebel, stole upon him from the rear and shot him in the back of the head, then jumped to the stage, and shouted, "Sic semper tyrannis." Booth then leaped out of the window. Although his leg had been broken by the first jump, he got on a horse and rode day and night until he got into Virginia, and there hid in a barn. When they tried to capture him, he would not come out of the barn, so they set the barn on fire, and when he came out they shot him. Several others who were in this plot were hung. They carried President Lincoln to the house across the street, where, as the dawn of day came, his soul departed to its everlasting rest in Heaven.

There probably has never been a death more sudden and unexpected and terrible in the history of the nations. Not only in this country did men everywhere cease their work as people do when a relative dies; but even in the countries of Europe they did so. All organizations passed resolutions of sympathy and the governments universally expressed theirs. It was a world-wide calamity.

He had gone through the four years of a terrible civil war unharmed, and now, when he had saved his country, conquered the enemy, and made him a friend again, and beautiful peace had come everywhere, to think his life should be taken by a cruel murderer, seemed more than men could bear. Every family mourned as though one of its own number had died suddenly.

The Washington funeral took place at the White House, Wednesday, April 19. The body was then taken to the rotunda of the capitol and covered with flowers. It lay in state until Friday, April 21. Thousands of people came to look at the calm, sad face that so many had looked at for hope through the long years of the awful war. It was now cold in death, but had a peaceful, natural look.

A great funeral train was formed that moved slowly across the country, going back along the route he came as the new president in 1861. It was over a week on the journey, as at many of the cities and towns it had to be stopped, so memorial exercises might be held and the people get a chance to see for the last time, the face of the martyr president. More than a million people, no doubt, thus looked on the dead face of President Lincoln.

They reached Springfield May 3 and there the greatest funeral ceremony took place and he was buried in Oakwood cemetery. Bishop Simpson preached the funeral sermon. In the beautiful tomb and under the magnificent monument since erected, Abraham Lincoln, his wife and two sons now sleep, awaiting the great resurrection day.

The nations of the world passed so many tributes in his honor that they were bound into a book of nearly a thousand pages.

As Mr. Lincoln was returning from Richmond on the steamer, the last Sunday of his life, he read aloud to some friends this seeming tribute for himself, from Shakespeare:

"Duncan is in his grave;
After life's fitful fever he sleeps well;
Treason has done his worst; nor steel nor poison,
Malice domestic, foreign levy, nothing
Can touch him further."

The other passage might have been well added:

"This Duncan
Hath borne his faculties so meek, hath been
So clear in his great office, that his virtues
Will plead like angels, trumpet-tongued, against
The deep damnation of his taking off."

May we be able to imitate the virtues of Abraham Lincoln.

"Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime
And departing leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time."

Little Stories of Lincoln.

There always cluster around a great man like Mr. Lincoln, many interesting incidents and stories. They are not always entirely true, and it is not always possible to prove or disprove them. Nevertheless, they often show true traits of the character, and as side lights help us form the proper estimate. I have therefore added some of these incidents and stories.

HOW HE LOOKED.

Mr. Lincoln was tall and rugged. His face had even more strength than his person. He had very simple manners and as natural as though among neighbors. He wrote a plain hand. He was very kind-hearted and inclined to pardon those who did wrong, particularly those who from fatigue fell asleep when on guard. He was kind to the poor and thoughtful of their needs. He was an example of that saying—"There is nothing so kingly as kindness." He was a very modest man and without pretense or jealousy. He often appointed to places of honor, those who had been his rivals and even those who had said ugly things about him.

FREEDOM IN THE CABINET.

Secretary Usher relates some interesting facts.

"I was in the Cabinet somewhat more than two years. It was very ill-assorted. There was hardly ever such a thing as a regular cabinet meeting in the sense of form. Under Johnson and Grant the chairs were placed in regular order around the table. Nothing of the kind ever occurred in Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet. Seward would come in and lie down on a settee. Stanton hardly ever stayed more than five or ten minutes. Sometimes Seward would tell the president the outline of some paper he was writing on a State matter. Lincoln generally stood up and walked about. In fact every member of the Cabinet ran his own department in his own way. I don't suppose that such a historic period was ever so simply operated. Lincoln trusted all his subordinates and they worked out their own performances."

A GREAT MAN.

He was one of the greatest men who ever lived. It has now been many years since I was in his Cabinet and some of the things which happened there have been forgotten, and the whole of it is rather dreamy. But Lincoln's extraordinary personality is still one of the most distinct things in my memory. He was as wise as a serpent. He had the skill of the greatest statesman in the world. Everything he handled came to success. Nobody took up his work and brought it to the same perfection.

A FORGIVING MAN.

That Mr. Lincoln was not only kind-hearted, but forgiving, is shown by his treatment of the secession leaders. He never spoke unkindly of them, including even Jefferson Davis, who caused so much of the trouble. Some at the close of the war said: "Do not let Davis escape. He must be hanged." To which Mr. Lincoln replied: "Judge not, that ye be not judged." When he was assassinated he was planning pardon and kind treatment for those who were defeated in the rebellion.

KIND OF LAWYER.

Fairness was the predominating quality of Mr. Lincoln as a trial lawyer. He did not claim his side was all right and the other side all wrong. Sometimes he would say: "I do not think my client is entitled to the whole of what he claims. In this or that point he may be in error." He was not abusive, as so many lawyers are, of the opposing side, but if he said a stern thing under necessity he would qualify it by saying he was sorry to have to make a severe statement.

AN UGLY MAN.

Mr. Lincoln was not vain of his personal appearance. Indeed if you look at his picture in the front of this book you will see he was a homely man. He only wore a beard while president. Previous to that time he shaved all his beard. He would laugh at a joke on himself as heartily as anyone else. He used to tell and laugh over the following:

"When I was traveling the circuit in Illinois, practicing law, I was accosted one day on the cars by a stranger who said:

"'Excuse me, sir, but I have an article which belongs to you.'

"'How is that?' I asked, astonished.

"The stranger took a pocket knife out and said: 'This knife was put in my hands some time ago with the instruction that I was to keep it until I found an uglier man than myself. I have carried it ever since. Allow me to say I think it now rightly belongs to you, sir, and I respectfully hand you your property.'"

THE BULL STORY.

One day when he was crossing a field a fierce bull saw him and made a charge. Mr. Lincoln ran for the fence but even his long legs could not go fast enough to reach it before the bull would catch him, so he ran to a hay-stack and began running around it. The bull could not make the sharp curves around the hay-stack as well as Mr. Lincoln, so he began to gain on the bull, until instead of the bull overtaking him, he began to overtake the bull and at last catching up, he seized the tail of the bull with a tight grip. Then as often as he could, he began to kick the bull until he bellowed in pain and dashed across the field with Mr. Lincoln still hanging to his tail, kicking him whenever he could and shouting "Who began this fight, anyhow?"

THE LITTLE WOMAN.

Mr. Lincoln was seated in the Journal office at Springfield with some friends, when a telegraph boy came running across the street from the telegraph office, waving a telegram, and shouting, "Mr. Lincoln, you are nominated." His friends gathered around to shake his hand in congratulation as he stood reading the momentous little yellow sheet. In a sort of absent-minded way he shook hands with them and then said: "Gentlemen, excuse me, there is a little woman down the street that is more interested in this than I am, and I will take it to her." He then started down the street with long strides toward his home. This nicely shows how thoughtful he was of his wife and how much he loved her. She was the first to him in his hour of great success and honor.

NOT AFRAID.

In the time of the Civil war there was a danger that Mr. Lincoln might be killed because he was president and conducting the war. It was thought that some traitor might watch until he got a good chance, when the president was unprotected, and then shoot him. Mr. Lincoln never seemed to fear this, however. He would walk over from the White House to the War department at night and alone. It would be midnight and two o'clock in the morning sometimes. At the War department Secretary Stanton would receive dispatches from the officers in the army on the situation at the front and Mr. Lincoln, after the day's work desired to get the latest word from the battles. When he was cautioned about danger he said: "If anyone desires to kill me, I do not suppose any amount of care could prevent it." How sadly true this was even when the war was over.

KIND OF RELIGION.

A while before his assassination, two Tennessee ladies called on the president, asking for the release of their husbands, who were prisoners of war at Johnson's Island. One of the ladies urged upon the president as a cause for her husband's release, that he was a religious man. He finally released them, but said:

"You say your husband is a religious man: tell him when you meet him that I say I am not much of a judge of religion, but that in my opinion, the religion that sets men to rebel and fight against their government, because, as they think, that government does not sufficiently help some men to eat their bread by the sweat of other men's faces, is not the sort of religion upon which people can get to Heaven."

MR. LINCOLN'S FIRST DOLLAR.

In the president's chamber some men were conversing one evening, and the conversation running on that line Mr. Lincoln said: "Seward, you never heard, did you, how I earned my first dollar? I was about eighteen years old and we were quite poor. We had raised some produce and I got mother's consent to take it down the river on a flat boat and sell it. There were then no wharves on the river. I was down at the bank looking over my flat boat to see that it was all right before I started out. Two men came along and wanted to get out to a steamer in the river and asked me if I would take them and their trunks out. I said, 'Certainly.' So they got on the flat boat and I pulled them out to the steamer and they got aboard and I lifted on the trunks. The steamer was about to go and the men had forgotten to pay me, so I shouted to them and each of them threw a silver half dollar on the floor of my boat. I could scarcely believe my eyes when I saw the amount of the money. It may seem a small sum to you gentlemen, but it seemed an immense sum to me. To think that I, a poor boy, had earned a dollar in less than a day and by honest work, was almost too good to be true. But there it was and the world did not seem such an awful big and terrible place after all, and I thought perhaps I could do great things yet, even if I was such a poor and helpless chap."

MR. LINCOLN AT SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Five Points in New York for many years was considered about the most wicked place in the city. They started missions there and made it better. One Sunday morning when Sunday School commenced, a tall, strange looking man entered and sat down. He listened with close attention to the exercises and when the lesson was over, the superintendent asked him if he would say something to the children. He said he would gladly; and going forward he talked in a plain, simple, earnest way and fascinated the children so that they all became very quiet and listened to all he had to say very eagerly. The faces of the children would brighten as he told some beautiful lesson or break into laughter as he quaintly told a humorous incident and then they would look serious as he warned them of sin and wrong and what would follow. Once or twice he tried to stop, but the little folks shouted, "Go on, Oh, do go on!" The superintendent wondered who this unusually interesting man was and when he was leaving, asked his name. The reply was, "I am Abraham Lincoln."

TRIBUTE TO THE WOMEN.

During the war many fairs were held to raise money to send extra food, clothing and medicine to the soldiers in the fields and hospitals. The ladies generally managed these fairs in the different towns. They asked Mr. Lincoln to speak at one of them and he gladly consented. He said:

"This extraordinary war in which we are engaged falls heavily on all classes of people, but the most heavily on the soldier. For it has been said, 'All that a man hath will he give for his life.' And while all contribute of their substance, the soldier puts his life at stake and often yields it up in his country's cause. The highest merit, then, is due the soldier. In this war extraordinary developments have manifested themselves, such as have not been seen in former wars, and among these manifestations, nothing has been more remarkable than these fairs for the relief of suffering soldiers and their families. The chief agents of these fairs are the women of America. I am not accustomed to the language of eulogy; I have never studied the art of paying compliments to women; but I must say that, if all that has been said by orators and poets were applied to the women of America, it would not do them justice for their conduct during this war. I will close by saying, God bless the women of America."

MORE LIGHT WANTED.

Another of Mr. Lincoln's stories was this:

A traveler on the frontier lost his way one stormy night. It was a terrible thunder storm. He floundered along until his horse played out. He could see only when the flashes of lightning came. The peals of thunder, however, were proportionately strong and frightening. One roar and all around him seemed crashing; he fell on his knees. He was not much given to praying so his prayer was short:

"O, Lord, if it's all the same to you, give us a little more light and a little less noise."

THE SHOOTING STORY.

Mr. Lincoln used to tell the story of a shaggy old man, who was a great hunter and lived in the edge of the timber. One morning he stood out in front of his door firing away at a squirrel in a tree. He kept shooting, but the squirrel did not come down. His son came up and asked what he was firing at. The father said: "Don't you see that squirrel up there in the tree?" The son looked and looked in every possible way but could see no squirrel. Still the father kept firing away. At last the son looking at him said: "Father I see what's the matter. There is an ant hanging on the end of your eyebrow and you have been looking at it."

FIRST RIGHTFUL DECISION.

Attorney-General Bates objected to the appointment of a certain Judge to a government position. Mr. Lincoln said: "He did me a favor once, let me tell you about it."

"I was walking to court one morning with ten miles of bad road before me. The Judge overtook me and said:

"'Hello, Lincoln, going to the court house? Get in and I will give you a ride.'

"I got in and the Judge went on reading some court papers. Soon the carriage struck a stump on one side of the road and then something else on the other side. I looked out and saw the driver jerking from one side to the other on his seat, so I said, 'Judge I think your driver has taken a drop too much of liquor this morning.'

"'Well I declare Lincoln,' said he, 'I should not much wonder if you are right, for he has nearly upset me half a dozen times since starting.' Putting his head out of the window he shouted, 'You scoundrel, you are drunk.'

"Upon which pulling up his horses and turning around with gravity, the driver said, 'Golly, but that's the first rightful decision your honor has given for the last twelve months.'"

GOD NEEDED CHURCH FOR SOLDIERS.

"Among the numerous applicants who visited the White House one day was a well-dressed lady. She came forward without apparent embarrassment in her air or manner, and addressed the president. Giving her a very close and scrutinizing look, he said:

"'Well, madam, what can I do for you?'

"She told him that she lived in Alexandria; that the church where she worshiped had been taken for a hospital.

"'What church, madam?' Mr. Lincoln asked in a quick, nervous manner.

"'The — Church,' she replied; 'and as there are only two or three wounded soldiers in it, I came to see if you would not let us have it, as we want it very much to worship God in.'

"'Madam, have you been to see the Post Surgeon at Alexandria about this matter?'

"'Yes sir; but we could do nothing with him.'

"'Well, we put him there to attend to just such business, and it is reasonable to suppose that he knows better what should be done under the circumstances than I do. See here; you say you live in Alexandria; probably you own property there. How much will you give to assist in building a hospital?'"

"'You know, Mr. Lincoln, our property is very much embarrassed by the war;—so, really, I could

hardly afford to give much for such a purpose.'

"Well, madam, I expect we shall have another fight soon; and my opinion is, God wants that church for poor wounded Union soldiers as much as he does for secesh people to worship in.' Turning to his table he said, quite abruptly: 'You will excuse me; I can do nothing for you. Good day, madam.'"

A DOUBTFUL ABUTMENT.

In Abbott's "History of the Civil War," the following story is told as one of Lincoln's "hardest hits:"

"I once knew," said Lincoln, "a sound churchman by the name of Brown, who was a member of a very sober and pious committee having in charge the erection of a bridge over a dangerous and rapid river. Several architects failed, and at last Brown said he had a friend named Jones, who had built several bridges and undoubtedly could build that one. So Mr. Jones was called in.

"Can you build this bridge?' inquired the committee.

"Yes,' replied Jones, 'or any other. I could build a bridge to the infernal regions if necessary!'

"The committee was shocked, and Brown felt called upon to defend his friend. 'I know Jones so well,' said he, 'and he is so honest a man and so good an architect, that if he states soberly and positively that he can build a bridge to—to—why, I believe it; but I feel bound to say that I have my doubts about the abutment on the infernal side.'

"So," said Mr. Lincoln, "when politicians told me that the northern and southern wings of the Democracy could be harmonized, why, I believed them, of course; but I always had my doubts about the 'abutment' on the other side."

SIGNING EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.

"The Emancipation Proclamation was taken to Mr. Lincoln at noon on the first day of January, 1863, by Secretary Seward and Frederick, his son. As it lay unrolled before him, Mr. Lincoln took a pen, dipped it in ink, moved his hand to the place for the signature, held it for a moment, and then removed his hand and dropped the pen. After a little hesitation he again took up the pen and went through the same movement as before. Mr. Lincoln then turned to Mr. Seward, and said:

"I have been shaking hands since nine o'clock this morning, and my right arm is almost paralyzed. If my name ever goes into history it will be for this act, and my whole soul is in it. If my hand trembles when I sign the Proclamation, all who examine the document hereafter will say, 'He hesitated.'

"He then turned to the table, took up the pen again, slowly and firmly wrote 'Abraham Lincoln,' with which the whole world is now familiar. He then looked up, smiled and said: 'That will do.'"

MR. LINCOLN'S ENDURANCE.

"On the Monday before the assassination, when the President was on his return from Richmond, he stopped at City Point. Calling upon the head surgeon at that place, Mr. Lincoln told him he wished to visit all the hospitals under his charge, and shake hands with every soldier. The surgeon asked him if he knew what he was undertaking, there being five or six thousand soldiers at that place, and it would be quite a tax upon his strength to visit all the wards and shake hands with every soldier. Mr. Lincoln answered, with a smile, he 'guessed he was equal to the task; at any rate he would try, and go as far as he could; he should never, probably, see the boys again, and he wanted them to know that he appreciated what they had done for their country.'

"Finding it useless to try to dissuade him, the surgeon began his rounds with the President, who walked from bed to bed, extending his hand to all, saying a few words of sympathy to some, making kind inquiries of others, and welcomed by all with the heartiest cordiality.

"As they passed along they came to a ward in which lay a rebel who had been wounded and was then a prisoner. As the tall figure of the kindly visitor appeared in sight, he was recognized by the rebel soldier who, raising himself on his elbow in bed, watched Mr. Lincoln as he approached and, extending his hand, exclaimed while tears ran down his cheeks:

"Mr. Lincoln, I have long wanted to see you, to ask your forgiveness for ever raising my hand against the old flag.'

"Mr. Lincoln was moved to tears. He heartily shook the hand of the repentant rebel, and assured him of his good-will, and with a few words of kind advice passed on. After some hours the tour of

the various hospitals was made, and Mr. Lincoln returned with the surgeon to his office. They had scarcely entered, however, when a messenger boy came, saying that one ward had been omitted, and 'the boys' wanted to see the President. The surgeon who was thoroughly tired and knew Mr. Lincoln must be, tried to dissuade him from going; but the good man said he must go back; he would not knowingly omit any one; 'the boys' would be so disappointed. So he went with the messenger, accompanied by the surgeon, and shook hands with the gratified soldiers, and then returned again to his office.

"The surgeon expressed the fear that the President's arm would be lamed with so much hand-shaking, saying that it certainly must ache. Mr. Lincoln smiled, and saying something about his 'strong muscles,' stepped out at the open door, took up a very large, heavy axe which lay there by a log of wood, and chopped vigorously for a few moments, sending the chips flying in all directions; and then pausing, he extended his right arm to its full length, holding the axe out horizontally, without its even quivering as he held it. Strong men who looked on—men accustomed to manual labor—could not hold that same axe in that position for a moment. Returning to the office, he took a glass of lemonade, for he would take no stronger beverage; and while he was within, the chips he had chopped were gathered up and safely cared for by the hospital steward, because they were 'the chips that Abraham Lincoln chopped.'"

GENERAL FISK'S SWEARING STORY.

"General Fisk, attending the reception at the White House, on one occasion saw, waiting in the ante-room, a poor old man from Tennessee. Sitting down beside him, he inquired his errand, and learned that he had been waiting three or four days to get an audience, he said that on seeing Mr. Lincoln probably depended the life of his son, who was under sentence of death for some military offense.

"General Fisk wrote his case in outline on a card, and sent it in, with a special request that the President would see the man. In a moment the order came; and past senators, governors and generals, waiting impatiently, the old man went into the President's presence.

"He showed Mr. Lincoln his papers, and he, on taking them, said he would look into the case and give him the result on the following day.

"To-morrow may be too late! My son is under sentence of death! The decision ought to be made now!" and the streaming tears told how much he was moved.

"Come," said Mr. Lincoln, 'wait a bit, and I'll tell you a story;' and then he told the old man General Fisk's story about the swearing driver, as follows:

"The General had begun his military life as a Colonel, and, as he was a religious man, he proposed to his men that he should do all the swearing of the regiment. They assented; and for months no instance was known of the violation of this promise. The Colonel had a teamster named John Todd, who, as roads were not always the best, had some difficulty in commanding his temper and his tongue. John happened to be driving a mule-team through a series of mud holes a little worse than usual, when, unable to restrain himself any longer, he burst forth into a volley of energetic oaths. The Colonel took notice of the offense, and brought John to an account."

"John," said he, 'didn't you promise to let me do all the swearing of the regiment?'

"Yes I did, Colonel," he replied, 'but the fact was the swearing had to be done then or not at all, and you were not there to do it.'

"As he told the story, the old man forgot his boy, and both the President and his listener had a hearty laugh together at its conclusion. Then he wrote a few words which the old man read, and in which he found new occasion for tears; but these tears were tears of joy, for the words saved the life of his son."

GETTING RID OF A BORE.

President Lincoln was quite ill one winter at Washington, and was not inclined to listen to all the bores who called at the White House. One day just as one of these pests had seated himself for a long interview, the President's physician happened to enter the room, and Mr. Lincoln said, holding out his hands: "Doctor, what are those blotches?" "That's variloid, or mild small-pox," said the doctor. "They're all over me. It is contagious, I believe?" said Mr. Lincoln. "I just called to see how you were," said the visitor. "Oh, don't be in a hurry sir," placidly remarked the executive. "Thank you sir; I'll call again," replied the visitor, making towards the door. "Do sir," said the President. "Some people said they could not take very well to my proclamation, but now I have something everybody can take." By this time the visitor was quite out of sight.

LITTLE INFLUENCE WITH ADMINISTRATION.

"Judge Baldwin, of California, being in Washington, called one day on General Halleck, and, presuming upon a familiar acquaintance in California a few years before, solicited a pass outside of our lines to see a brother in Virginia, not thinking that he would meet with a refusal, as both his brother and himself were good Union men.

"We have been deceived too often,' said General Halleck, 'and I regret I can't grant it.'

"Judge Baldwin then went to Stanton, and was very briefly disposed of, with the same result. Finally, he obtained an interview with Mr. Lincoln, and stated his case.

"Have you applied to General Halleck?' inquired the President.

"Yes, and met with a flat refusal,' said Judge Baldwin.

"Then you must see Stanton,' continued the President.

"I have, and with the same result,' was the reply.

"Well, then,' said Mr. Lincoln, with a smile, 'I can do nothing; for you must know that I have very little influence with this Administration."

MR. LINCOLN'S HORSE TRADE.

"When Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer in Illinois, he and a certain Judge once got to bantering one another about trading horses; and it was agreed that the next morning at 9 o'clock they should make a trade, the horse to be unseen up to that hour, and no backing out, under a forfeiture of \$25.00.

"At the hour appointed the Judge came up, leading the sorriest looking specimen of a horse ever seen in those parts. In a few minutes Mr. Lincoln was seen approaching with a wooden saw-horse upon his shoulders. Great were the shouts and the laughter of the crowd, and both were greatly increased when Mr. Lincoln, on surveying the Judge's animal, set down his saw-horse, and exclaimed: 'Well, Judge, this is the first time I ever got the worst of it in a horse trade.'"

HIS FIRST SPEECH.

"The following first speech of Abraham Lincoln was delivered at Poppsville, Ill., just after the close of a public sale, at which time and in those early days speaking was in order. Mr. Lincoln was then but twenty-three years of age, but being called for, mounted a stump and gave a concise statement of his policy:

"Gentlemen, fellow-citizens: I presume you know who I am. I am humble Abraham Lincoln. I have been solicited by many friends to become a candidate for the legislature. My politics can be briefly stated. I am in favor of the internal improvement system, and a high protective tariff. These are my sentiments and political principles. If elected, I shall be thankful. If not it will be all the same."

HOW HE DIVIDED MONEY.

"A little fact in Mr. Lincoln's work will illustrate his ever present desire to deal honestly and justly with men. He had always a partner in his professional life, and, when he went out upon the circuit, this partner was usually at home. While out, he frequently took up and disposed of cases that were never entered at the office. In these cases, after receiving his fees, he divided the money in his pocket-book, labeling each sum (wrapped in a piece of paper), that belonged to his partner, stating his name, and the case on which it was received. He could not be content to keep an account. He divided the money, so that if he, by any casualty, should fail of an opportunity to pay it over, there could be no dispute as to the exact amount that was his partner's due. This may seem trivial, nay, boyish, but it was like Mr. Lincoln."

HELPED HIS STEP-MOTHER.

"Soon after Mr. Lincoln entered upon his profession at Springfield, he was engaged in a criminal case, in which it was thought there was little chance of success. Throwing all his powers into it,

he came off victorious, and promptly received for his services five hundred dollars. A legal friend, calling upon him the next morning, found him sitting before a table, upon which his money was spread out, counting it over and over.

"'Look here, Judge,' said Lincoln; 'see what a heap of money I've got from the — case. Did you ever see anything like it? Why, I never had so much money in my life before, put it all together.' Then crossing his arms upon the table, his manner sobering down, he added, 'I have got just five hundred dollars; if it were only seven hundred and fifty, I would go directly and purchase a quarter section of land and settle it upon my old step-mother.'

"His friend said that if the deficiency was all he needed he would loan him the amount, taking his note, to which Mr. Lincoln instantly acceded.

"His friend then said: 'Lincoln, I would not do just what you have indicated. Your step-mother is getting old, and will not probably live many years. I would settle the property upon her for her use during her lifetime, to revert to you upon her death.'

"With much feeling, Mr. Lincoln replied: 'I shall do no such thing. It is a poor return at the best, for all the good woman's devotion and fidelity to me, and there is not going to be any half-way business about it' and so saying he gathered up his money and proceeded forthwith to carry out his long-cherished purpose into execution.

A SMALL AUDIENCE.

Mr. Herndon got out a huge poster announcing a speech by Mr. Lincoln, employed a band to drum up the crowd, and bells were rung, but only three persons were present. Mr. Lincoln was to have spoken on the slavery question.

GENTLEMEN: This meeting is larger than I knew it would be, as I knew Herndon (Lincoln's partner) and myself would be here, but I did not know any one else would be here: and yet another has come—you John Pain, (the janitor.)

These are bad times, and seem out of joint. All seems dead, dead, dead: but the age is not yet dead; it liveth as our Maker liveth. Under all this seeming want of life and motion, the world does move nevertheless.

Be hopeful. And now let us adjourn and appeal to the people.

NOISE DON'T HURT.

"When General Phelps took possession of Ship Island, near New Orleans, early in the war it will be remembered that he issued a proclamation, somewhat bombastic in tone, freeing the slaves. To the surprise of many people, on both sides, the President took no official notice of this movement. Some time had elapsed, when one day a friend took him to task for his seeming indifference on so important a matter.

"'Well,' said Mr. Lincoln, 'I feel about that a good deal as a man whom I will call 'Jones,' whom I once knew, did about his wife. He was one of your meek men, and had the reputation of being badly henpecked. At last, one day his wife was seen switching him out of the house. A day or two afterward a friend met him on the street, and said: 'Jones, I have always stood up for you, as you know; but I am not going to do it any longer. Any man who will stand quietly and take a switching from his wife, deserves to be horsewhipped.' Jones looked up with a wink, patting his friend on the back. 'Now don't,' said he: 'why, it didn't hurt me any, and you've no idea what a power of good it did Sarah Ann.'"

LINCOLN ON TEMPERANCE.

In response to an address from the Sons of Temperance in Washington, on the 29th of September, 1863, Mr. Lincoln made the following remarks:

"As a matter of course, it will not be possible for me to make a response co-extensive with the address which you have presented to me. If I were better known than I am, you would not need to be told that, in the advocacy of the cause of temperance, you have a friend and sympathiser in me. When a young man—long ago—before the Sons of Temperance, as an organization had an existence, I, in an humble way, made temperance speeches, and I think I may say that to this day I have never, by my example belied what I then said.

"I think the reasonable men of the world have long since agreed that intemperance is one of the greatest, if not the very greatest of all evils among mankind. That is not a matter of dispute, I

believe. That the disease exists, and that it is a very great one, is agreed upon by all. The mode of cure is one about which there may be differences of opinions. You have suggested that in an army—our army, drunkenness is a great evil, and one which while it exists to a very great extent, we cannot expect to overcome so entirely as to leave such success in our arms as we might have without it. This, undoubtedly, is true, and while it is, perhaps rather a bad source to derive comfort from, nevertheless, in a hard struggle, I do not know but what it is some consolation to be aware that there is some intemperance on the other side, too; and that they have no right to beat us in physical combat on that ground."

MR. LINCOLN'S POEM.

Mr. Lincoln, in 1844 upon a visit to the old neighborhood in which he was raised was moved to write the following little poem. It is the only one he is known to have written.

"My childhood's home I see again,
And sadden with the view;
And still, as memory crowds my brain,
There's pleasure in it too.

"O Memory! thou midway world
'Twixt earth and paradise,
Where things decayed and loved ones lost
In dreamy shadows rise.

"And, freed from all that's earthly vile,
Seem hallowed, pure and bright,
Like scenes in some enchanted isle
All bathed in liquid light."

To Be Memorized.

Mr. Lincoln wrote many passages worthy of being committed to memory. His phrase "Government of the people, for the people and by the people," is more quoted than any other on the question of government. I add a few that are well worthy of memorizing and remark, that every boy and girl in America ought to be able to recite the Gettysburg speech.

"Let us have faith that right makes might and in that faith let us to the end dare to do our duty as we understand it."

"With malice toward none and charity to all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in."

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot permanently endure half slave and half free. I do not expect the Union to be dissolved; I do not expect the house to fall; but I do expect it will cease to be divided. It will become all the one thing or the other. Either the opponents of slavery will arrest the further spread of it, and place it where the public mind shall rest in the belief that it is in the course of ultimate extinction, or its advocates will push it further until it becomes alike lawful in all the states, old as well as new, North as well as South."

"We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory stretching from every battlefield and patriot's grave to every loving heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

"We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."

"In giving freedom to the slave, we assure freedom to the free."

"'The Father of Waters' again goes unvexed to the sea."

"Among free men there can be no successful appeal from the ballot to the bullet."

"And then there will be some black men who can remember that with silent tongue, and clinched teeth and steady eye and well-poised bayonet they have helped mankind on to this great consummation; while I fear there will be some white ones unable to forget that with malignant heart and deceitful speech they strove to hinder it."

LINCOLN'S GETTYSBURG SPEECH.

Four score and ten years ago our fathers brought forth upon this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived or so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We are met to dedicate a portion of it as the final resting place of those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here; but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work that they have thus far so nobly carried on. It is for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us, that from these honored dead we take increased devotion, that we here highly resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation shall under God, have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from the earth.

[1] Charles Dickens.

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